

Black Hills Rock Outcrop Sparse Vegetation

COMMON NAME	Black Hills Rock Outcrop Sparse Vegetation
SYNONYM	Black Hills Rock Outcrop
PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS	Sparse vegetation (VII)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS	Consolidated rock sparse vegetation (VII.A)
PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP	Sparsely vegetated cliffs (VII.A.1)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP	Natural/semi-natural (VII.A.1.N)
FORMATION	Cliffs with sparse vascular vegetation (VII.A.1.N.a.)
ALLIANCE	Rock Outcrop / Butte Sparse Vegetation

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 3

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM Upland

RANGE

Globally

This community has only been identified in western South Dakota.

Mount Rushmore National Memorial

This vegetation type occurs throughout the study area. Granite outcrops are best developed in the central and western parts of the study area. Schists are more abundant to the east.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

Globally

This community is found where granite or schist bedrock is exposed in the higher areas of the Black Hills. Slopes range from none (flat) to steep. There is little soil development; what soil there is can be found in cracks and depressions in the rock surface.

Mount Rushmore National Memorial

This community occurs in areas with large exposures of granite and schist. Plants occurs on soil pockets and in cracks on the outcrops.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

Globally

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
----------------	----------------

Information not available.

Mount Rushmore National Memorial

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
----------------	----------------

Tree canopy	<i>Pinus ponderosa</i>
-------------	------------------------

Short shrub	<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i> , <i>Juniperus communis</i>
-------------	--

DIAGNOSTIC SPECIES

Globally

Information not available.

Mount Rushmore National Memorial

large, sparsely vegetated rock outcrops

USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program
Mount Rushmore National Memorial

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Globally

Few vascular plants grow in this community, although lichens are common. Widely scattered *Pinus ponderosa* grow where there is enough soil to support their roots. Dwarf-shrubs and herbaceous species such as *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*, *Juniperus communis*, and *Carex inops* ssp. *heliophila* can be found in soil pockets as well.

Mount Rushmore National Memorial

This vegetation type consists of sparse vascular plant cover, typically with a few scattered *Pinus ponderosa* trees growing in cracks. Lichens are common. On granite outcrops, mats of *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi* on pockets of soil.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES Information not available.

CONSERVATION RANK G4G5

RANK JUSTIFICATION

DATABASE CODE Cegl002295

COMMENTS

Mount Rushmore National Memorial This type is often found in mosaics with *Pinus ponderosa* / *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi* Woodland and *Pinus ponderosa* / *Juniperus communis* Woodland.

REFERENCES